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Letter dated 19 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 18 June 2001 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Umit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 19 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 8 May 2001 (A/55/932-S/2001/457) addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, and bring to your kind attention the following:

The above-mentioned letter is an attempt by the Greek Cypriot administration to mislead world public opinion on the sentencing of Panicos Tziakourmas in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The Greek Cypriot administration, under the usurped title of "government of Cyprus", has tried to interfere with the independent judicial process in Northern Cyprus. As in all democratic States, the State structure of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is characterized by a strict separation of powers, enabling the judiciary to be independent from the other organs of the State. Thus, interference in the decisions taken by the judiciary is neither feasible nor acceptable.

Mr. Tziakourmas was arrested on 12 December 2000 by the Turkish Cypriot police near the village of Beyarmudu within the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus on suspicion of dealing in narcotics and was found in possession of illegal drugs. Upon his arrest he was treated with the necessary care and respect under the laws of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. He was tried, found guilty and sentenced, on 26 April 2001, to six months in jail by the Gazi Mağusa Assize Court. He was subsequently released on the basis of time already served and good conduct.

It is ironic that the Greek Cypriot administration is trying to defame the Turkish Cypriot side while its police have made a career out of abducting Turkish Cypriots from the buffer zone and torturing them, a fact also confirmed by the European Court of Human Rights which, in December 2000, found the Greek Cypriot administration guilty of torturing Erkan Eğmez, a Turkish Cypriot citizen who was abducted by the Greek Cypriot police in the buffer zone in 1995. Another recent case of abduction of a Turkish Cypriot by the Greek Cypriot police is that of Ömer Tekoğul, who lives in the mixed village of Pyla, situated in the United Nations-controlled buffer zone. This incident is clearly a case of abduction, since it occurred within the United Nations-controlled buffer zone, where the Greek Cypriot police have no jurisdiction. It is regrettable that the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) has chosen to remain silent in an abduction case that occurred in an area under its control. This has inevitably resulted in the sentencing of an innocent Turkish Cypriot by the "justice" system of the Greek Cypriot regime, which has never served justice to any Turkish Cypriot. This unacceptable stance of UNFICYP not only shook the confidence of the Turkish Cypriot people in the peacekeeping force, but also demonstrated that the Greek Cypriot police can get away with abduction. We ask that UNFICYP take urgent action to secure the release of Mr. Tekoğul.

The attempt by the Greek Cypriot representative to portray the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus as "occupied areas" or as a "local administration" is an attempt to hide the fact that the only occupation in Cyprus is the 38-year-old occupation by the Greek Cypriots of the seat of the Government of the 1960 partnership Republic of Cyprus. As is well known, the armed attacks against the

Turkish Cypriots in 1963 by Greek Cypriots left the Turkish Cypriot people stateless and eventually led to the establishment of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in 1983. The lawful presence of the Turkish military in Northern Cyprus is based on the 1960 treaties and on the full consent of the Turkish Cypriot people. It is important to note that the Turkish military presence in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is a vital security requirement for the Turkish Cypriot people, as it serves as an effective deterrent against Greek Cypriot-Greek aggression in Cyprus.

I would like to underline the fact that the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is a sovereign and independent State, established by the Turkish Cypriot people through the exercise of their inherent right to self-determination. The Greek Cypriot administration, which persecutes people on the basis of ethnicity, has no right at all to talk about human rights or to question the integrity of the judicial system in Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus